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transferring reset information to the device after completion of the training exercise so that the device may be placed in an initial state. - -

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner (1) rejected claims 2, 5, 11, 14, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention; (2) rejected claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-16, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hitchcock et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,823,781); and (3) rejected claims 5-6, 11, 17-18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitchcock et al.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 19, and added new claims 23-63. Claims 1-63 are pending in the application.

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 5, 11, 14, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the Examiner stated that he is unsure as to what is meant by "a server/controller." Applicants have amended these claims to recite a system controller. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

With regard to claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-16, and 19-21, the Examiner rejected these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hitchcock et al.

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Hitchcock et al. is directed to a system and method for training a user on computer software applications. These computer software applications may include standard computer applications (such as, Microsoft Word or Excel), specialized computer applications, Internet applications, or network infrastructure configurations. These network infrastructure configurations may encompass the use of printers, routing in the network, and other operations performed over the network.

In the system of Hitchcock et al., software is first used to diagnose the skill level of the user. This is accomplished by asking the user a series of questions regarding the computer application. The user's answers are then evaluated to diagnose their skill level.

Next, a prescription software module evaluates the user's answers and determines a prescription having the treatment necessary for the user to meet a minimum skill level in the computer application.

Next, a learning treatment tailored to the needs of the user is determined. The learning treatment module is described as at least one software program. Hitchcock et al. discloses that these learning treatments may be dynamic help, job aids, modular computer-based training (CBT) and classroom training. Because, in the system of Hitchcock et al., the treatments are contained within the distribution engine of the learning support system, a user can access dynamic help, job aids, or CBT modules

directly from the user's computer.

Hitchcock et al. describes dynamic help as a software program that can collect questions and answers to these questions can be provided to the user. (col. 5 ll. 10-15).

Hitchcock et al. describes job aids as software programs that can used to describe procedures for computer software application use. (col. 5 ll. 15-21). Hitchcock et al. further discloses that the learning prescription may include computer based training (CBT) modules. These are described as software modules. (col. 5 ll. 31-35).

In contrast, independent claim 1 of the present invention recites, in part, a system for training a user regarding controlling of a device, comprising:

- a user computer for accepting device control information reflecting at least one instruction regarding to a task to be performed as part of a training exercise; and

- a device controller remotely connected to the user computer, including means for receiving the device control information, and means for transferring the device control information to the device so that the user can exercise control over the device for the purposes of training.

As such, the present invention is directed to methods and systems for training a user with regard to a device in which the user exercises control over the device during the training.

Hitchcock et al., however, does not teach or suggest a user remotely accessing a device for the purposes of training on that device. Rather, Hitchcock et al. merely

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discloses a user remotely accessing dynamic help, job aids, or CBT modules (software) for the purposes of training on a computer application. In fact, Hitchcock et al. does not even teach a user remotely accessing the computer applications they are being trained on themselves for the purposes of training, but rather merely accessing the dynamic help, job aids, and CBT modules remotely. Accordingly, Hitchcock et al. does not teach or suggest the user's remotely exercising control over a device that they are being trained on.

In summary, Hitchcock et al. does not teach or suggest a device controller remotely connected to the user computer, including means for receiving the device control information, and means for transferring the device control information to the device so that the user can exercise control over the device for the purposes of training, as recited in independent claim 1.

Applicants further submit that for these same reasons, Hitchcock et al. does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed in independent claims 7, 13, and 19.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hitchcock et al. Applicants further submit that claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18, 19-26 that depend directly on independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, are likewise allowable, at least due to their dependence on independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

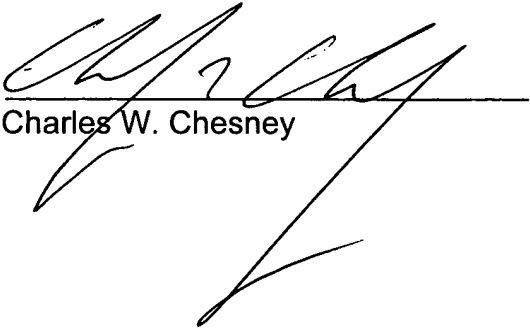
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Applicants further submit for the same reasons as discussed above, new claims 27-63 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:   
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